State Of South Dakota

EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION FOR VALOR

Office Of The Governor

On Tuesday, April 28, 1981, Jason Halajian, 9, and Eric Denekamp, 6, both of Watertown, South Dakota, became stranded on a raft in the center of a pond.

In an effort to get help, Jason started swimming for the shore. Quickly overcome by the frigid water, he sank, struggling, beneath the surface of the pond. A passer-by quickly swam out and rescued Jason from a certain death by drowning. Meanwhile, Eric remained on the raft in the center of the pond, panicked and afraid to move.

Alerted by cries for help, Todd Amy, 17, of Watertown, rushed to the pond. He immediately recognized the crucial nature of the situation. After ensuring that Jason was safe, he plunged into the water and swam for the raft. With great strength and swimming ability, he pushed the raft, with the badly frightened boy aboard, to the safety of the shore.

True courage is a unique combination of mental perception and physical stamina--a quickness of vision and strength of action. Had Todd possessed only one or the other, a tragedy may have struck on that April day. Because he possessed both, young lives were spared an untimely death.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby publicly proclaim the valor of

TODD AMY

and I join Todd's family and friends in saluting him for again showing us that we have always known about the selfless courage of our young people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fourth Day of September, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Two

WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

ALICE KUNDERT, SECRETARY OF STATE

BY Jay D. Vogt
JAY D. VOGT, DEPUTY

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